

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 3rd day
of August, 2016.

Office of the Public Counsel,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
Laclede Gas Company and)	
Missouri Gas Energy)	
)	
Respondents.)	

File No. GC-2016-0297

ORDER REGARDING MOTION TO STAY

Issue Date: August 3, 2016

Effective Date: August 3, 2016

On April 26, 2016¹, the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) filed a complaint against Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede”) and Missouri Gas Energy (“MGE”) (collectively, “Respondents”). The complaint alleges that Respondents are overearning and asks the Commission to lower Respondents’ rates. Respondents deny the complaint and have filed a motion to dismiss.

On July 22, Respondents filed, among other things, a request for stay of this case. Respondents state that they plan to file rate cases no later than March 17, 2017; thus, this complaint case would be wasteful and redundant since Respondents would initiate the same kind of rate review next March that would be necessary in this case.

¹ Calendar references are to 2016, unless otherwise noted.

OPC responded on August 1. OPC alleges that Respondents are overearning and argues they should not be allowed to continue overearning for several more months simply because they plan to file a rate case next March.²

The Commission is persuaded by OPC's argument. The Commission notes that by agreement, a prehearing conference has been rescheduled for August 18. This complaint is OPC's to prove if it can. If the parties cannot agree to a procedural schedule soon after August 18, they should inform the Commission so that the Commission can set a schedule for them.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The request for stay filed by Laclede Gas Company and Missouri Gas Energy is denied.
2. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule, or schedules, no later than August 25, 2016.
3. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney,
Rupp, and Coleman, CC., concur.

Pridgin, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

² The Commission notes Staff's comment in the July 12, 2016 Agenda meeting that Laclede is already required to file a rate case in April of 2017 due to operation of the ISRS.